

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...possibly of any place in the United States, certainly better than the federal government, and I want to remind you again of the basic fact with respect to both state and local government that as a percentage of personal income, the amount of money spent for local and state taxes in Nebraska as a percentage of personal income has not changed since 1970. It has been, basically, about 11 1/2 percent of personal income, and I think that denotes a continuing level of responsibility. And if you really want to get serious about making government more efficient, then it is not this budget we should be talking about, it is a number of structural changes involving counties and cities and school districts and the way we do business that we should be talking about, and I will save that for another speech, which you haven't heard, I am sure. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Schimek, your light is next.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. That, Senator Beutler, was just the best speech in favor of the argument against term limits that I ever heard, because you brought a perspective to some of those of us who have not been on the floor as long as you have, and I wonder what's going to happen a few years down the road. But, anyway, Senator Maurstad, that was...that was an impassioned speech that you just gave, and I think it was exceedingly appropriate. I have been on the Appropriations Committee, I know how the process works. I know how...how much in detail you go over the budget. You not only go over the budget once, but you go over it three times in the process, and you have...you have a lot of different viewpoints on the Appropriations Committee and you all have to come to some consensus just like we do eventually here on the floor. And I originally got up to ask some questions about the Warner amendment, so I'm going to be fairly brief, but I would just like to reecho some things that were said here on the floor, and I'm not going to stand up here and be sanctimonious and say that, you know, I am not just as guilty as everybody else on this floor that we haven't been able to come to some decisions that we want to make. But I want to tell you that I'm more determined than ever that we will be able to come out with a budget that we can be proud of, and I'm willing, along with I know a number of other people on this floor, to take those hard